(c) if so, whether these stocks would be used for income generation programmes especially in drought-affected areas; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) According to the National Family Health Survey-II (NFHS) 1998-99, the percentage of mal-nourished children under the age of three years are 47% and approximately 52% of women suffer from anaemia. At present, 616.70 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice are available in the Central Pool as against the minimum buffer stock norms of 243 lakh tonnes. Food for Work Programme has been launched in the drought affected areas of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Kerala. 22.24 lakh tonnes of food grains have been made available to these States free of cost.

Tobacco-related diseases among women

3714. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco-related diseases among women are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government or proposed to be taken in this direction;

(c) whether it is also a fact that proxy smoking is also on the rise in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to control this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) As per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1993-94, 4% of urban women and 8.8% of rural women use tobacco in some form or the other. Passive smoking is also a risk faced by non-smokers by inhaling smoke exhaled by smokers.

In order to discourage the use of tobacco products, the Government have introduced a comprehensive legislation in the form of a Bill, "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 in the Rajya

Sabha on 7.3.2001, which, *inter-alia*, seeks to ban on smoking in public places and sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age. The Bill is presently under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development of Rajya Sabha.

Organ Transplant Act, 1994

3715. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Organ Transplant Act, 1994 banned donors and other relatives of patients from donating kidneys;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a ban; and

(c) whether it is not affecting the needy patients who are in dire need of kidneys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir, Under Sub-section (3) of section 9 of Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, organs, including kidneys, from brain stem dead persons, including other relatives of patients, can be transplanted to the needy recipients. Moreover, the authorisation Committees constituted under clause (a) or (b) of sub-section (4) of section 9 of the said Act can also consider donation of human organs by non-related live donors.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting-up of special panel to monitor complaints of female foeticide

3716. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to set up a special panel to monitor complaints of female foeticide and the related diagnostic tests widely prevalent in the country, as reported in the Times of India dated the 4th August, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of specific role assigned and the penal powers, if any, vested in the panel;

(c) the difficulties encountered in administering the existing Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1993; and